Washington April 10. /64

Dear Sidney,

I have this moment received yours with the enclosure of Susan's, and feel deply the afflictions of Richard and his family and also your own; I sympathize with you sincerely, and it may be the intention of these afflictions at least in part to excite in us all that affection for each other, which otherwise might be dormant. We indeed need constant chastisements, and blessed be the Dispenser of all good, (in which, afflictions must be classed,) that he so tempers them with mercies as to keep his children from being overcome by them and sinking into despair. — We are not all afflicted at once except by sympathy for each other. A brighter day is dawning upon me. I send you the Intelligencer of to-day in which you will see that the Telegraph is successfully under weigh. Through six miles the experiment has been most gratifying. In a few days I hope to advise you of more respecting it. I have prefered reserve, until I could state something positive. I have my Ports set to Beltsville, 12 miles and you will see by the Intelligencer that I am preparing to go directly on to Baltimore, and hope to reach there by the middle of May.

I know not what to say about returning. You see how I am situated and yet I must continue to come on if I stay but a day when my children arrive. —

Susan feels a little in her letter that you have not written her, even if but a line; Do write her, at least to let her know that you have received things sent from her. She feels that you do not wish her at your house. I shall write her immediately and give her your kind invitation, for which I thank you. —

I am writing with fifty people about me in W. Ellsworth's office so excuse abrupt closing. —

Kind love and sympathy to Rich'd. and family and to Catherine & friends. —

Your affectionate Brother

S. F. B. Morse.

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